

3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909) 1925
SD6 Cayapa SD6

130

CAYAPA INDIANS

227 several stout strands of pita cord are fastened securely to the head at the point where the prongs branch off from the tang, and these are attached to the pole at a point a few inches up from the head. Thus in case the head should pull out of its socket it is still securely fastened to the pole and cannot be lost.

The other form of fish-spear, called in Cayapa pūtyū'lya, is made usually with a long, slender, palm-wood pole not more than half an inch in diameter, the prongs being made from heavy fish-hooks which have been straightened out. The point of the pole is fairly flat and about an inch in width. From two to four straightened fish-hooks are bound to this flat point by means of pita cord, which is then thoroughly covered with brea to make it impervious. This form of gig is suitable only for catching very small fish. While the 226
227
[177] gigs of the present time are thus made of iron, the aboriginal spears were similarly shaped but were provided with points of hard palm-wood.

227 Another gig, made in the same manner as the last, but usually with a heavier pole and heavier points, is 225
● used for spearing water-turtles, which are fairly abundant here. This gig is called pūtyū'lya, as well as hwe'ska or fe'ska, and the only marked difference between it and the fish-gig just described is that its points have no barbs. It is said by the Indians that it is impossible to pierce the shell of a turtle with a barbed gig, but that the barbless point passes through the shell easily. The terrapins, or land turtles, having harder shells, are always caught by hand.